

# Minnesota Extension News

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Vol. X

UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL, MINN., MARCH, 1931

No. 6

## Home Workers' Meetings Under Way at U. Farm

AS THIS issue of Minnesota Extension News goes to press, the annual Home Demonstration Conference is in full swing at University Farm. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, March 2, 3 and 4, were to be devoted to discussions and events for the state staff and home demonstration agents, while from Thursday on through the week county home chairmen were to be in attendance.

The out-of-state speakers included A. B. Graham, in charge of specialists for the federal extension service, Washington, D.C., and Miss Bertha Oxner, director of the homemakers' department, University of Saskatchewan, Canada.

The entire program was to be in charge of Miss Julia O. Newton, state home demonstration leader. Local speakers included Dean W. C. Coffey; Director F. W. Peck; T. A. Erickson, state club leader; Dr. O. B. Jesness, chief of agricultural economics; Dr. Charles Lively, rural sociologist; Miss Wylle B. McNeal, home economics chief; Dr. L. S. Palmer, biochemistry division, and Mrs. E. V. Ripley, home and community director of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation.

Specialists on the program included Cora E. Cooke, Mary May Miller, Eva Blair, H. L. Harris and Parker Anderson.

Miss Anna Olsen, Hennepin county, and Miss Gwendolyn A. Watts of Rice county, home demonstration agents, were also to speak.

More details concerning the proceedings of the conference will be given in our April number.

## Hanson Back on Job

Ed Hanson returned to work during February, and although not quite back to normal, is getting along in good shape. Arrangements are being made to complete the dairy feeding schools which were suspended while Ed was away.

## New Title for 'News'

WITH this issue, the Minnesota Extension Service News dons a new hat, as it were, changing its name to the MINNESOTA EXTENSION NEWS. A few months ago, the Extension News was enlarged from three to four columns, permitting it to carry considerably more material, and this form has been adopted as permanent.

In spite of all these changes, it is the same publication with the same mission of carrying instructive news and information for and about Minnesota extension workers. Librarians and others interested in numerical labels will notice that our volume number continues right along under the new title.

## Coming Events

March 12-13, 1931—Annual Meeting, Land O' Lakes Creameries, Minneapolis  
March 26-28, 1931—Horticulture Short Course, University Farm  
March 31-April 2, 1931—North Central 4-H Short Course, Grand Rapids  
April 28-30, 1931—Extension Supervisors Meeting, Lincoln, Nebraska

### DISTRICT ANNUAL CONFERENCES

May 5-6, 1931—Rochester  
May 7-8, 1931—Marshall  
May 12-13, 1931—Crookston  
May 14-15, 1931—Grand Rapids  
June 3-5, 1931—4-H Leaders' Camp, Itasca Park  
June 9-12, 1931—Junior Short Course, University Farm  
June 15-16, 1931—West Central 4-H Short Course, Morris

## State's 1929 Fertilizer Purchases 13,500 Tons

MINNESOTA farmers in 1929 purchased nearly 13,500 tons of commercial fertilizers, according to Dr. C. O. Rost, of the soils division, Department of Agriculture, University of Minnesota. Figures for the 1930 purchases are not yet available, says Dr. Rost, but they will closely approach those of 1929. The purchases represent about 5,265 tons of superphosphates, 3,808 of complete fertilizers, and 3,604 of phosphate-potash mixtures. The total of these purchases amounts to 12,677 tons. The difference between this total and the grand total is made up of nitrogen fertilizer and muriate of potash, and of some 430 tons estimated to have been sold in small packages for lawns and gardens.

Freeborn county was the heaviest purchaser, the farmers of that county having bought 150 tons of superphosphates, 660 of complete fertilizers, and 1,825 of phosphate-potash mixtures. This large supply of phosphate-potash, Dr. Rost says, was applied almost exclusively on peat soils.

In the northeast district of the state, including 20 counties, the effect of phosphate alone is not marked, and complete fertilizers and phosphate-potash mixtures are more generally used. In the southeast district, comprising nine counties, both phosphate and complete fertilizers are used to a considerable extent, but the phosphate-potash mixtures are used very little. In the western district, which includes 58 counties, the phosphate fertilizers are more common, though the phosphate-potash used in Freeborn county is credited to the western district, but, as Dr. Rost says, that was used almost exclusively on peat soils.

## Pig Pamphlet Popular

Although it has been nearly 2 years since it was printed, J. B. McNulty is still receiving calls for the pamphlet published for distribution at his 1929 State Fair county extension booth, entitled "The Pigs That Had Two Tales." Mr. McNulty has received a letter, under date of January 28, from George W. Davies, secretary of the American Poland China Record association, Chicago, requesting more copies of the pamphlet, stating that those previously supplied to the association have gone into every state and many foreign countries.

## Weed Campaign Being Adopted In S. W. Counties

MOST of the 10 southwestern Minnesota counties having representatives at the weed conference held in Slayton, February 6, will use the Redwood county plan this year. Of the 36 county commissioners attending the meeting, 34 are recommending the plan to their own counties.

Murray county was the first to hold a county-wide meeting of town chairmen with the county commissioners. This was held on February 20 and was closely followed with a meeting in Luverne, February 23. The town chairmen at each of these meetings unanimously adopted the plan and township meetings are being scheduled for the appointment of section or minute men.

These meetings are called by the county auditor or the chairman of the county commissioners. At the meeting, the chairman tells of the meeting at Slayton and the interest which was aroused through the discussion of the five county commissioners from Redwood county and the experience of other commissioners from other counties. The county agent outlines the plan and includes a statement of the weed situation in the county in order to prompt discussion among the group as to the needs for some new system of controlling weeds through the cooperation of the people in the township. The methods of weed control are also discussed.

The first town meeting was held in Holly township, Murray county, on February 26. Only 20 men attended, but they were keenly interested. Holly township borders on Springdale township in Redwood, so the farmers are more or less familiar with the Redwood county plan. The group moved to adopt the plan and selected 35 section men to serve in 36 sections. There was intense interest throughout the 3 hours. During the discussion one man stated that he had been in Redwood county last summer and had seen some weeds there in spite of the plan. Another countered with the statement that he had purposely made a drive into Redwood to check on the plan and had never before seen so many small pieces of ground plowed to control weeds.

## Rice Creameries Form County-Wide Association

SOMETHING new has been developed in Rice county recently, in the form of an association of cooperative creameries. Delegates from nine creameries met in January, and drew up a constitution and by-laws providing for the control of the association by a board of directors, one from each creamery, to be elected at the annual meeting. The new board is to meet this month to elect officers and take up business.

Harry Hass, Rice county agent, points out that some of the problems pending action will be creamery improvement, the use of extension marketing specialists for studies on creamery efficiency, the mail order cow-testing system for creamery patrons, the dairy herd improvement association and the creameries, and the production of quality cream.

In general, the purpose of the association shall be to cooperate in the protection and improvement of the cooperative creameries in Rice county. H. R. Searles, dairy specialist, feels that the forming of such an association is a much-needed step, and predicts that other creameries will take similar action.

## New Garden Booklet by Harry O'Brien Is Free

A BOOKLET of 48 pages, bearing the title: "Better Gardening, What, When and How to Plant," has been issued recently by the Union Fork and Hoe Company of Columbus, Ohio. The author is Harry R. O'Brien, who earns his daily bread by teaching agricultural journalism at Ohio State University, but whose hobby is gardening.

The volume is illustrated by excellent line drawings and contains chapters dealing with tools, soil preparation, fertilizers, cultivation and weeding, annual and perennial flowers, borders, rock gardens, lily pools, lawns and grasses, shrubs and trees, evergreens, vegetable gardens, fruits and berries, and insects and diseases and their control.

Says J. M. Drew, "Reading this book is calculated to make the amateur wish for a garden, and the old time gardener itch to get out on the land."

Persons interested in gardening may have copies free by writing the publishers as described above.

## Dates Changed

Notice of all extension workers is called to an important change made in the dates for the district annual conferences. These will be held beginning May 5 and ending May 15 instead of as announced in our February number. As previously announced, the conferences were to begin in April and end the first week of May. The complete new schedule of dates is given in the "Coming Events" column on this page.



# Minnesota Extension News

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MARCH, 1931

The Agricultural Extension Service is facing a period of severe trial in the coming year. Upon our ability to measure up to the emergency situation that exists throughout the state depends the standing that the service will have at the end of this year and in the coming 2 or 3 years.

Economic necessity is a tremendous force. Drastic action often follows from the development of sentiment driven to extremes by economic conditions that may have been more or less local in their severity, but which now extend to wider limits and include people in practically every occupation.

This is a time when the tax problem is uppermost in the minds of many people. County tax committees and tax associations in their attempt to reduce taxes often select those activities that are most vulnerable to attack in the belief that any reduction, no matter how small, is a step in the right direction under present conditions.

It happens that the county extension service is often a vulnerable point of attack from a taxation standpoint, and while it is more psychological than actual as a means of reducing local taxes, there is always great danger that the work may be at least temporarily affected and possibly permanently stopped in a county through a general misunderstanding of what the work is attempting to do in the interests of an improved agriculture.

Probably the most effective answer to attacks upon the extension service is a sound, active, going program of work which has placed important things first and has so convinced local people of its value as an educational medium as to bring defenders to its support.

It is not easy to put important things first and keep them first. We are all subject to expediency and to emergency situations; we are all affected by the surface indications at times, rather than by those elements that run fundamentally deeper into permanent conditions. It would help, if it were possible to point out that in times like the present, it is all the more necessary to emphasize steps that will guard against weaknesses in systems of farming and to strengthen in every possible way the productive, positive lines of attack upon the economic problem of making a better farm living.

G. F. Warren, of Cornell Univer-

sity, summarizes advisable important procedure as follows:

The safest procedure on farms is to anticipate that there may be some rise in prices for a few months and that products that are very low in price may rise, but that the general level of commodity prices is likely to decline below pre-war before many years.

If this is true, the chief ways of procedure are:

1. Find ways of producing farm products with less hours of labor.
2. Find ways of reducing costs of distribution.
3. For certain products, increase the quality to meet the new demands for quality from workers who have a high buying power.

Not being able to increase efficiency or reduce distributing charges fast enough, total food production is being reduced or held about stationary while population grows. Ultimately, this will result in a period when consumers' prices of food are high compared with other things.

## Agents Urged to Deliver Dairy Diplomas at Once

HONOR roll certificates awarded by the National Dairy association to members of dairy herd improvement associations having herds of five or more cows producing 300 pounds of butterfat or above are being forwarded to county agents. Ramer Leighton points out that these diplomas are for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1929, and ending June 30, 1930. He urges that county agents stress this fact to members or through local publicity, since some misunderstandings have arisen.

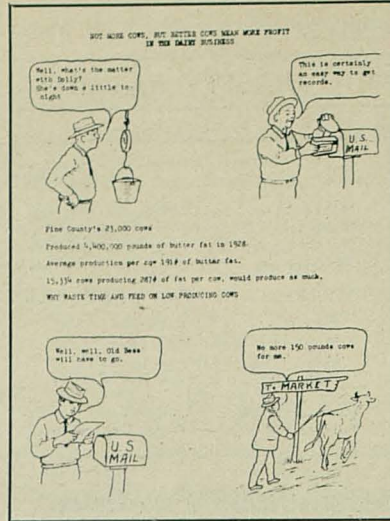
Whenever meetings can be conveniently arranged for dairymen to receive their diplomas in public, such recognition might well be given. Should this not be feasible, agents should attend to the prompt delivery of the certificates, either in person or through the mails.

Publicity has been circulated throughout the state regarding the awards which means that dairymen are expecting the diplomas. It is especially urged that none of the diplomas be permitted to remain in county agents' offices undelivered. Where this has happened in former years, it has led to considerable disappointment, and to embarrassment for everyone connected with the distribution of the diplomas.

## Drew-Mackintosh Natal Day Observance Held

CONTINUING- a custom established more than 20 years ago, J. M. Drew and R. S. Mackintosh, old-timers of the extension service, celebrated their birthdays together at the Drew home on the evening of February 18. Mr. Mackintosh's birthday is on the seventeenth, and Mr. Drew's on the eighteenth. Mrs. Drew baked a large angel-food cake for the "boys," and the guests, who were Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Coffey, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Erickson, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Brown. Mrs. Drew and Mrs. Mackintosh, of course, were present, making a party of 10. Next year the event will be held at the Mackintosh home, the custom being to alternate it.

## Boosts Mail Test



W. F. Hammargren of Pine county uses the above full-sized cartoon on the back of his letterheads to keep local farmers reminded of the benefits of cow testing and to call their attention to the desirability of the State-Wide association plan.

## Speakers Stress Value Of Play in Farm Life

ONE of the pointedly valuable talks was by Dr. C. J. Galpin on trends in the use of leisure, in which Dr. Galpin insisted on the pace of play in the life of the farm family. He said that there had been too little recognition of the necessity of the organization and regularity of play in rural places. Play, he maintained, has as sound a foundation as farming itself.

Miss Grace Frysinger of the United States Department of Agriculture followed with a review of the progress being made by various states for the promotion of play. Illinois, she said, had a state-wide recreation program; Kansas was training local leaders in recreation; Kentucky carried four recreational programs each year in 4-H club work. Recreation in the home was urged by Miss Frysinger. A need in extension work, she said, was additional trained leadership for recreational effort. As an evidence of the trend, Miss Frysinger said that Iowa was about to put on a full time recreation specialist.

## Sees Doom of Small Rural Communities

DECLARING that many rural communities are too small to support adequate social institutions, Dr. C. J. Galpin, sociologist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, described what he regards as the "ideal" farm community in its sociologic aspects.

"The small rural community," he said, "has little chance to attain high community standards of life. It is doomed on account of its smallness. I hold that a farm community of 100 farms and 100 families, like the 36-square-mile townships of Wisconsin and Iowa, is too small.

"A community of at least 1,000 rural families is needed in order to maintain and support schools, libraries, hospitals, parks, playgrounds, churches, fire companies, and the like.

## "Poultry" and "Master Farmers"—New Books

POULTRY raising as a science is emphasized in a new book, "Judging Poultry for Production," by Rice, Hall and Marble, published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., of New York City. The authors are members of the department of poultry husbandry, New York State College of Agriculture, Cornell University.

According to descriptive literature from the Wiley company, the book is a particularly valuable treatise, dealing with the scientific aspects of climate, feeding, illumination and general management in relation to inheritance and environment.

Another book in which Minnesota extension workers may be interested is "The Master Farmers of America and Their Education," by Oliver Stuart Hamer, Ph.D. The book is published by the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, and may be obtained from the Department of Publications there at \$1.25 a copy.

Dr. Hamer's book is an attempt to set up standards in education for adult farmers. The Master Farmers of America have been selected because they represent the best of their class. Dr. Hamer addressed questionnaires to the 594 Master Farmers in 28 states, and received replies from 389 in 26 states, so that his study presents a real picture of the group. Included in the main subjects of the study are the agricultural, financial and other interests of the Master Farmer, influences affecting the Master Farmer, his education, and his family. The general summary gives a synopsis of the facts, and also presents a composite picture of the typical Master Farmer and the Master Farmer's Wife.

## Predicts Bright Future For Mail Testing Plan

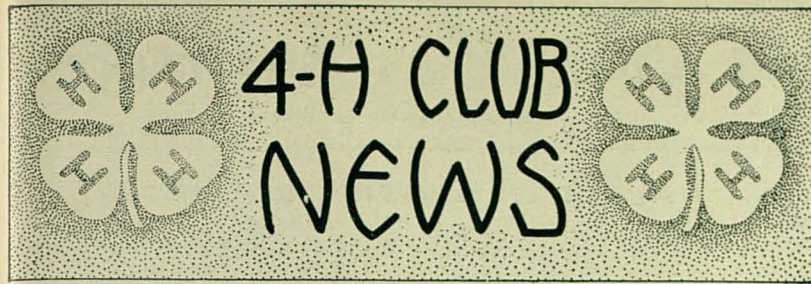
J. C. McDOWELL, who is in charge of dairy herd improvement association work, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., spent Friday, February 20, with members of the dairy division at University Farm.

He reported that although the number of associations decreased somewhat in the United States last year, the number of cows on test was larger than ever before. He reported an increased interest in testing, particularly in the eastern states. New York has increased its cow testing associations during the past year, and in addition, a number of district mail order testing circles have been organized.

Mr. McDowell expressed the opinion that the Minnesota State-Wide Cow Testing association, which now has about 600 members, would grow and develop into a large organization, testing a large number of herds; that as it grew it would also serve as a leader to dairy herd improvement associations and that eventually the plan will result in an increase in the dairy herd improvement associations as well as in the number of herds keeping records by mail.

Registering a gain of about 400 during February, the State-Wide testing plan is making rapid progress. Freeborn county has about 220 members and Pine has about the same number, the work being completed there the first week of March. Waseca, LeSueur, Nicollet, Rice and Goodhue all organized active creamery units last month.





**4-H Club Work at The Crookston Winter Show**

FOUR-H boys' and girls' club work was an important feature of the Winter Shows at Crookston, February 9 to 13. The exhibits of corn and potatoes and the livestock and poultry classes were larger than in previous years with excellent quality.

A full program was carried on for the boys and girls during the entire 5 days. This included a general session between 9 and 10 in the morning, with special sessions at various times during the day.

A banquet was given Monday evening at the Crookston Hotel when some of the winners were announced. The presentation of trophies in the judging pavilion Tuesday forenoon was a very interesting feature. The boys and girls who won grand championships in the various lines demonstrated splendid ability in handling their livestock.

One of the most valuable features of the 4-H program were the team demonstrations given in the livestock pavilion each day.

The leaders' training conference on Wednesday was unusually well attended.

Other special features included a program at the Northwest School of Agriculture given by the local 4-H students' club, a baby beef fitting demonstration by four of the outstanding baby beef club members, a poultry judging contest, and a livestock judging contest.

**National Trip Offered In New Records Exhibit**

ALL junior leaders will have a chance to make a special exhibit at the State Fair consisting of their reports and scrap books. A special class for these records has been added to the premium list.

The records will be judged and the five junior leaders making the best showing will be given trips to the National Club Congress at Chicago.

Be sure to call this to the attention of the junior leaders so that they may make a special effort to have their records sent in. The exhibits may include all the project and leadership records of a club member's entire club experience.

**Dates Set for Annual Club Short Courses**

THE annual Junior Short Course at University Farm will be held June 9, 10, 11 and 12. The Great Northern, Northern Pacific, Minneapolis and St. Louis, and Soo railroads will again assist with expenses in bringing in club members from their respective counties. A statement will be sent each county agent showing the number of club members from each county to be benefitted.

The special feature of the 4-H

short course will be a leaders' training class. County extension agents are urged to select junior leaders as far as possible for special trips. It is also urged that individual 4-H clubs select delegates to represent them at this event.

The West Central club short course will be held at the School of Agriculture at Morris, June 15, 16 and 17; and the North Central course will be held at Grand Rapids, March 31 to April 2. Both of these will provide very interesting programs.

**Six-County 4-H Leaders' Training Camp Planned**

A LOCAL leaders' training camp will be held at the Forestry School in Itasca State Park, June 3, 4 and 5. Plans were completed at a meeting of the county agents, February 11, at Crookston for the counties of Wadena, Hubbard, Beltrami, Clearwater, East Polk and Koochiching.

A committee, composed of O. K. Engene, Clearwater county, chairman, W. H. Olson, Hubbard county, and C. L. Blakeslee, Wadena, was chosen to have charge of local details.

The training camp will be open to one adult and one junior leader of each local 4-H club of the six counties. The cost of the camp will be nominal and each club is urged to defray expenses for its representatives. An excellent program is planned.

Director Peck will present 4-H club work and its relation to the entire extension program. Miss Ella Gardner, recreation specialist of the federal extension service at Washington, will direct music and recreation. It is also hoped that R. A. Turner, or some other member of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, will attend. Members of the state extension service will be present to assist with the program.

**Health Cards and Charts**

Life Line Charts for measuring heights and obtaining comparative weights may be obtained for local leaders without cost by writing Thompson's Malted Milk Company, Waukesha, Wisconsin.

Cards with the height and weight tables may be obtained from the American Child Health Association, 370 Seventh Avenue, New York City, at 90 cents per hundred.

**Potato Winner Medals**

A beautiful medal will be awarded the county winner in the potato project, providing 10 members complete the work. The club member making the best record in the state will be awarded a gold medal and a trip to the National Club Congress. The medals are provided by The Farmer.

With farm buying power the lowest in years, now is the time to push garden clubs.

**Health Programs Urged At March 4-H Meetings**

THE fourth "H," or health work, will be the special feature of the 4-H club program in Minnesota for 1931. Every 4-H club in the state is urged to devote its next meeting to the subject of health. A very interesting program can be given. One of the best sources of material is a little leaflet called "Program Pepper" put out free by the National Dairy Council, 221 North La Salle Street, Chicago, Illinois. Club leaders and county extension agents should keep a file of these leaflets.

Let's have a 100 per cent health program next meeting. The following suggestions are given for the health program:

- (1) The Health Song.
- (2) Rules of the Health Project, by a Leader or Club Member.
- (3) The Fourth "H" in Our Club Emblem and Club Pledge, by a club member.
- (4) Plans for 4-H Health Work in Our County, by the county agent.
- (5) Be Your Own Best Exhibit, by a club girl.
- (6) Health Demonstration, by a team or individual.
- (7) Health Playlet, by club members.

Games suggesting health should be played during the recreation hour. The "cats" committee should try to prepare "a well-balanced lunch." Suggestions for the games and lunch will be found in the "Program Pepper" as suggested above. Other material may be had by addressing the American Child Health Association, 370 Seventh Avenue, New York.

**Hawaii Initiates 4-H Frog Raising Clubs**

FROG farming is being encouraged in the Hawaiian Islands by the agricultural extension service through the organization of boys' 4-H frog clubs. Other clubs are to be organized and a frog show was to be held this winter in conjunction with the annual poultry show. Natives call these frogs "mountain chickens."

Marketing specialists, after studying the Honolulu market, found that 6,000 pairs of frog legs a week could be sold at 20 cents a pair, so advised frog raising. The agricultural experiment station imported frogs into Hawaii a few years ago to feed on certain insect pests. Incidentally, the reptiles acquired a wide reputation for the cooking quality of their hind legs, and so have come to be regarded as a desirable kind of livestock, as well as effective insect enemies.

**Home Beautification and Garden Bulletin**

One of the best booklets we have seen for garden and home beautification members has just been put out by the Union Fork and Hoe Company at Columbus, Ohio. Leaders and members of the above clubs may secure copies by writing this company. County agents are urged to call the attention of home beautification clubs and garden clubs to this very helpful bulletin.

City planning is a common thing now in urban centers. Something of the same kind must be developed for the open country.—Frank O. Lowden.

**More Special Prizes For Advanced Projects**

SPECIAL incentives are offered to 4-H members in the meat animal livestock projects, who apply practices learned in club work on the home farm.

County winners will receive gold medals, and the state winner a \$50 gold watch. Scholarships will be awarded national winners. These prizes are provided by Thos. E. Wilson, president of The Wilson Packing Company.

For dairy calf club members working with producing cows, gold medals are provided for county winners and a trip to the National Dairy Show at St. Louis for state champion. Prizes are provided by the Linseed Meal Educational Committee.

For older club members who are in partnership with their fathers and who are keeping farm records, scholarships and special county prizes are provided by The Parker Pen Company.

**Hold 4-H Play Contests**

Ten or more Lac qui Parle county 4-H clubs have spent considerable time this winter in presenting one-act plays, and as a climax to this work, three local contests and a county contest are to be held. The latter will be March 20 at Madison, with a trip to the club short course at Morris in June as a prize. At Morris, the winning cast will compete with other county champions for the district championship.

**4-H Leaders' Schools**

Four-H leadership schools are very popular, particularly in southern Minnesota. Mower, Watonwan, Fillmore, Freeborn, Nicollet, Houston, Faribault, Jackson, Cottonwood, Pipestone, Blue Earth, Stearns St. Louis, Itasca and Hennepin counties conducted very successful ones during February.

**Faribault Leads County Bureaus in Memberships**

FARIBAULT county again led all counties of the state in total paid-up farm bureau membership for 1930 with 834 members, states a news release from the state federation. Freeborn county followed in second place with Martin county a close third. Winona was fourth and Watonwan fifth.

The next 22 counties ranked as follows: Cottonwood, Brown, Goodhue, Steele, Hennepin, Fillmore, Jackson, Renville, Rock, Rice, Lyon, Nicollet, Murray, Olmsted, Dodge, LeSueur, Lac qui Parle, Carver, Blue Earth, Pipestone, St. Louis and Traverse.

In addition, the following contributed in dues to the state federation during the year: Clearwater, Carlton, Chisago, Dakota, Houston, Hubbard, Itasca, Lincoln, Meeker, Morrison, Mower, Nobles, Norman, Pine, Redwood, Scott, Stevens, West Polk, East Polk, Washington.

Considerable interest has been manifested in the announcement of Secretary J. S. Jones that he will award a silver cup to the county making the best record in membership during 1931. Every county, whether large or small, may compete, as the award will not be made entirely on the size of the membership.



## Canadian Paper Lauds Work of Minn. Agents

WHAT Minnesota extension folks are doing and saying in regard to the Agricultural Credit Corporation received prominent notice in the Canadian press within the past few weeks. It all came about when the president of the Canadian Pacific Railway suggested that some of the difficulties of farmers in western Canada might be solved if Canada had an agricultural credit corporation and the Free Press-Evening Bulletin at Winnipeg sent one of its special writers to Minneapolis.

Subsequently the Bulletin ran a series of articles on its editorial page entitled "The Rebuilding of the West." In the article for January 20, we find a quotation from Director F. W. Peck, giving his opinion of the corporation. Putting together snatches from this quotation, we find Mr. Peck saying, "We hailed it with joy. For years we had been preaching more and better livestock, only to be met by the question from farmers as to where to get the money to buy it. Now when our men find a man who needs livestock, we know where we can direct him for capital with a fair assurance of being able to obtain it."

The article further explains that the manager of the corporation, W. C. Wilkins, gave great credit to county agents, stating that the corporation depended mainly upon agents to do the follow-up work, and the instructing of new and inexperienced beginners in the care and feeding of livestock. The writer also goes on to say that "Watching the manager check through a list of applications, it was abundantly evident that the approval or disapproval of a borrower by a county agent carried great weight."

The whole series is a very interesting and complimentary resume of the activities and accomplishments of the corporation. In the final article, setting forth the possibilities which such a corporation might have for service in Canada, the writer states that such an organization "would do much to restore confidence and inspire farmers to renewed effort."

Another compliment is paid county agents, when the writer calls attention to some disadvantages which Canada would have to overcome, one of which, it was said, "was the absence in Canada of district agricultural representatives corresponding to the county agents, who have been so large a factor in the success of the credit corporation to the south."

## Miss Hobart "Resting"

Miss Inez Hobart, nutrition specialist, has been drafted by her physician for a "rest cure," and has been at home since the first of February. Miss Hobart's doctor said she had to have a complete rest, and will probably not be back at work before April 1. Friends who wish to write Miss Hobart may address her at 2103 Colfax Avenue South, Minneapolis. Two of the counties where her projects were being given, are fortunate in having home demonstration agents who can carry on the work. These are Wilkin, where Miss Charlotte Kirchner is continuing with the project, and St. Paul, with Mrs. Agnes Erkel at the helm.

## Sow Scrubbing "Show" Proves Big Attraction

FOLKS like to see things actually done rather than merely hear them talked about, even if they are as simple as A, B, C. Such would appear to be the conclusion from a recent swine sanitation meeting held in Mower county. Arranged by Stanley Hillier, assistant county agent, the meeting was conducted right out on a farm near Waltham with an actual pen-cleaning, sow-scrubbing demonstration directed by A. E. Engebretson, livestock specialist.

A farrowing pen in the hog house was thoroughly cleaned by first soaking up the dried filth with cold water and removing it and following this with a thorough scrubbing using boiling water and lye. Next the sow was brought on the "stage" and her sides, udder, feet and legs washed with a lukewarm soapy solution. The sow was then placed in the clean pen carrying out fully the prescribed pre-farrowing treatment.

Next was demonstrated practically the method of moving sows and young pigs from the farrowing pen to clean pasture. The sow was driven into a crate mounted on a stoneboat and drawn by a horse. She was placed in a lot where pigs had not ranged for 2 or 3 years.

As indicated by the many questions asked and the way the farmers crowded around to witness the demonstration, there was intense interest, especially in the simplicity of the method. This was evident from the statement of one farmer who said, "Well, that's something we can do at my place. Maybe we can still hope to raise healthy hogs." The owner of the place was so impressed that he inquired if it would not be advisable to scrub the pens with boiling water where sows that had already farrowed were being kept. When answered in the affirmative, he indicated that he would do this.

## Seek Suggestions for Improving Radio Talks

IN AN effort to secure suggestions from farmers and homemakers regarding the improvement of the University Farm radio talks, a complete schedule of talks to be given through March and up to April 17 has been published and copies sent to extension agents for distribution among farm people.

Director Peck, Mr. Kirkwood and others connected with this service are anxious to learn from agents all over the state what success local people are having in getting these programs over WLB, as well as tips on how the material presented can be made more timely, helpful, or interesting.

WLB broadcasts on a frequency of 1,250 kilocycles, which is equivalent to a wave length of 239.9 meters.

## Home Ec. Worker Dies

Miss Wyllie B. McNeal, home economics chief at University Farm, received news of the death on February 3 of Miss Anna E. Richardson, chief of the home economics service of the Federal Board of Vocational Education at Washington, D. C. For several years Miss Richardson was dean of home economics at Iowa State College, and later a field worker in child development for the American Home Economics association.

# Farm Economics

Conducted by W. L. Cavert

## Long-Time Agricultural Outlook

THE national outlook report prepared at Washington in the last week of January devotes several pages to the long-time agricultural outlook. Briefly stated, it appears that agricultural prices will be above present levels during the coming years, but will not average so high as in 1925-29. On the farmer's side is the probability of a continuous increase in population of a million to a million and a half per year. Increasing mechanization of agriculture will bring about readjustments in crop and livestock systems in many sections. This may mean increased specialization in both crop and livestock production.

There is no prospect of an early increase in land values.

The conclusions are the following:

### General Price Level

Prices of all commodities in 1930 were down to 79 per cent of the 1926 level. It is not likely that in the next few years the general price level will return to that of 1920-1929. Following past business depressions, business revivals have usually been accompanied by an increase of about 10 per cent in the general price level.

### Agricultural Prices

It is expected that the revival of business will be accompanied by a greater increase in agricultural prices than the usual 10 per cent increase in the price of all commodities, as prices of all raw materials drop more in business depressions than prices of manufactured goods. A further material drop in the prices of commodities purchased by farmers is to be expected. Therefore, the expectation is that the spread between farm prices and things that farmers buy will tend to close up.

### Foreign Competition and Demand

Demand for our farm products in foreign countries during the next 5 or 10 years is likely to be less than in the past 10. There is likely to be increasing competition from Russia and the Balkan states in supplying European markets.

### Population Growth

A rapid decline in the United States birth rate has been in progress since 1921, and while the population of the United States is still increasing, the increase is getting smaller each year. However, between 1931 and 1940 there will be 1,200,000 to 1,500,000 new domestic consumers each year and possibly a million new consumers each year in the decade 1940-1950.

### Farm Mortgage Credit

"The outlook for the next few years is for a continuation of the present conservative policy on the part of lending agencies. Appraisals for current and future loans will be fixed at lower levels."

### Land Values

It seems probable that depression in the farm real estate market will continue. "Conditions during 1930 have been such as to reduce the number of buyers and at the same time to increase the number of farms for sale. Moreover, little progress has been reported toward the reduction of the excessively heavy tax burden which farm lands have been called upon to bear and which constitutes a first claim on farm returns."

### Mechanization

"The development and use of new types of farm equipment involving larger uses of mechanical power, and

providing the individual farm worker with a much greater capacity for handling land and equipment, has been a conspicuous development in our agriculture during the past few years. Further important developments in this direction are to be expected during the next 10 years. In the long run, this means further reduction of the agricultural population through shifts into other occupations.

"The family farm is still the prevailing type. Mechanization has enlarged the acreage and increased the necessary investment in the family farm, but the latter has not been superseded to any significant degree by the corporate form of business organization.

"Mechanization in crop production has not as yet been paralleled by corresponding labor saving developments in livestock husbandry. There arises the problem, therefore, of balance between livestock and feed production over a considerable part of our best corn lands."

## New Bulletin Discusses Harvesting by Combine

"COST of Combine Harvesting in Minnesota" is the title of experiment station bulletin 266 by George A. Pond and L. B. Basset. This bulletin is worthy of careful study by extension workers and farmers interested in the extent to which the combine is likely to replace the stationary thresher.

The authors conclude, "Combines in Minnesota are confined to a very considerable extent to large farms specializing in grain production. It appears from this study that their use on such farms has been satisfactory and that they have effected a material reduction in harvesting costs."

The authors outline three limiting factors in the use of the combine:

1. Lack of a sufficient acreage per machine annually to keep down harvest costs.
2. The handling of harvest operations to avoid losses and to assure the condition of threshed grain so that it can be stored safely.
3. Some method of straw recovery at reasonable costs.

The data show that 200 acres of grain are harvested at a cost of \$2.19 per acre with a 12-foot combine, compared with \$3.45 with the binder method, provided that windrowing is not done and that the straw is not gathered. However, the gathering of straw with side delivery rake and hay loader cost 80 cents per acre and windrowing cost 46 cents per acre. If the cost of windrowing and gathering straw be added to the \$2.19 for combining, then the comparison would be \$3.45 in each case. However, the straw secured after combining would have much less value for feeding.